POND-LESS WATERFALL MAINTENANCE

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Although Pond-Less Waterfalls are less maintenance than an open pond, there are a few things to keep an eye on to keep your waterfalls free-flowing and clear.

CASCADING WATERFALL BOX MAINTENANCE

At least once per year you should remove the filter media located in your waterfall box and clean thoroughly to remove the debris that has collected over time. This should only be done when water temperatures are coldest or below 50°F. Whenever possible, clean and rinse the media using water collected from the pond. Chlorinated tap water can kill the beneficial bacteria living on the media.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Keeping Water Clear
Water clarity is important. Use the products below when water temperatures are above 50°F, in dosage directed for your water feature's capacity. If your water is getting cloudy or murky, a partial water change can quickly remove any excess nutrients or debris and give your pond a fresh start. Just remember to add your beneficial bacteria after you refill to keep it looking clean.

Debris Removal
Debris can collect in your stream diverting water flow, especially while leaves are falling or after a storm. Periodically manually remove debris that may block the flow of your waterfall.

System Check
Inspect pump, tubing, and connections regularly to make sure everything is running smoothly, and no damage has been sustained. Look for leaks where you could be losing water. Remove your filter material from your waterfall box and spray clean at least yearly.

Water Level Monitoring
Pumps need a constant supply of water, if your water level drops too much it can damage your pump and you will need to replace it. Check water levels in basin and top off from time to time or install an Automatic Water Fill Kit (Item# PB1342) to automatically refill evaporated and splashed water.

ROUTINE WATER TREATMENTS

Water treatment use depends on product, time of season, and condition of the water feature. Use as directed. Safe for wildlife.



ALGAE D-SOLV®

CrystalClear Algae D-Solv is a 5.4% active EPA registered liquid algaecide.
This preventative treatment targets string algae, blanket weed and green water caused by single-celled algae. CrystalClear Algae D-Solv contains no copper and is safe for wildlife when used as directed.

USE weekly at first for preventative maintenance, then every other week to manage algae growth.

POND FIX® - DRY

Suited for spot application, sprinkle on problem areas to quickly remove stringy growth from waterfalls, rocks, and streams. Also works great for pond applications and fountains. It is best to turn off pumps so water stops flowing. Add the powder directly to the stringy growth and let sit for 15-20 minutes. Spray or wash away stringy growth. Turn pumps back on.
USE this whenever stringy growth becomes present. Do not add Pond Fix on the same day you treat with Muck Buster®.





MUCK BUSTER®

Beneficial bacteria with barley and enzymes help break down organic debris that leads to clogging and decreased flow of the pump. For use after algaecide treatment when sludge begins developing from decaying algae. **DO NOT USE Muck Buster at the same time as an algaecide.** Accidental usage of both together won't actually hurt anything but your pocketbook, algaecides kill the beneficial bacteria in Muck Buster, lowering its effectiveness. Wait at least 4-5 days after algaecide treatment to apply Muck Buster.

USE every other week on the opposite week of your algaecide treatment to help clear build up from dead algae and other organic debris.

Cascading Falls Pond-Less Waterfalls
Seasonal Maintenance Suggestions

THE BLUE THUMB POND-LESS SYSTEM

A Pond-Less or Cascading Waterfall works much like a regular pond. A hole is dug and lined with a flexible liner, however, instead of being open water, an underground basin/reservoir is created. The basin contains a pump set in a protective Pump Canyon® and matrix boxes that keep the reservoir open and available for water. It is covered with rock and gravel, then the basin is filled with water.

The water is circulated from beneath the rocks and gravel by the Pump through a flex hose that runs from the Pump Canyon up to a Cascade Falls Spillway and into an overflowing waterfall, where it falls back into the reservoir.

Since the water level never pools above the level of the rock and gravel, it gives the appearance of a waterfall without a pond, when in fact, the "pond" is there but not visible.

WINTERIZING

IF YOU CHOOSE TO LEAVE YOUR WATERFALL RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE WINTER:

Extra caution must be taken with ponds that have long and slow-moving streams as they freeze faster. Check water flow regularly for ice dams that could potentially divert water out of your stream. Be especially watchful on extremely cold days. Continue to monitor your water levels for evaporation and refill as necessary as low water levels can damage your pump.

TO SHUT DOWN YOUR FALLS:

Freezing can cause issues with your pump system. You may decide to store your pump for the winter to prevent the risk of damaging your pump.

Here are the things we recommend doing when shutting your system down for winter:

Scrub waterfall spillway using a soft bristle brush and spray rocks to break down any attached debris. This helps maintain the look and functionality of your waterfall and makes Spring Start-up easier.

Remove the Pump

To winterize your pump, unplug and pull it out of the Pump Canyon® along with the check valve assembly. Clean off any scale and debris, then submerge in a 5-gallon bucket filled with water to keep the seals lubricated. Store the bucket where it will not freeze, like your basement, heated garage, etc.

Empty the Spillway

When you remove your pump you will naturally drain the spillway and hose back into the basin.

Remove the filter media from the spillway, spray clean and set aside for storage with your pump. Remove any remaining debris. A small amount of water in the Cascade Box will not hurt the system if it freezes.

DO NOT drain the basin for the winter. It is best to keep the basin at least 50% filled with water to avoid heaving during freeze and thaw. Drain and refill in spring during your seasonal cleaning.

If you have a light kit installed: Lights are okay to be left outside but avoid having the controller and remote exposed to snow.

NOTE: Winter damage is not covered under warranty.

SPRING START-UP

It's easy to get your waterfall flowing clear after the last freeze when starting up your Pond-Less Cascading Falls after a winter shut down.

Clean up Debris

Start by picking up any unwanted sticks, leaves, and other debris along the streambed.

Clean out any debris or scum in your Cascade Falls Spillway, rinse off and replace the filter media. **Remember to check to make sure the box is still level and tilted slightly forward.**

Rinse all rocks down with a hose or pressure washer from the Spillway down toward the basin, blowing out debris along the way. Do this a few times to ensure a good cleaning. **Take care to avoid spraying the liner with a pressure washer, it can potentially cut into the liner creating a leak.**

Once you are satisfied with your stone wash, make sure that the bottom of the Pump Canyon is free of debris and gravel.

Reinstall Pump in Pump Canyon®

Visually inspect your pump for damage before reconnecting. Make sure it is clean, so the pump doesn't get blocked and cause damage or failure. Place pump in your Pump Canyon and connect the plumbing.

Fill your water feature basin to desired height using your garden hose and plug in your pump.

Once the Waterfall is Running

Check low areas around the streambed edges where water may escape and fill where needed. Adjust rocks that may have shifted over the winter. Clean up plant life.

Muck and mud may have settled in the matrix reservoir/basin throughout winter. **Add Muck Buster®** to the running stream to replenish good bacteria to further break down any remaining waste. If the stream doesn't clear up in 48 hours, a simple water change may be in order. When draining your reservoir, the water you are draining is nutrient rich for plants life along the water feature, so don't waste it. You may start an algae preventative a few days after your stream runs clear.

If you have a light kit installed: Check positioning of lights, clean lenses, and check for burned out bulbs.